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Washington and New York.

There are Some Things That Are Done Better Here Than in Gotham.

A little more than two years ago Andrew Carnegie made his offer of \$5,200,000 to build sixty-five public libraries in Greater New York. The ninth site was selected this week; only one building has been completed and the erection of two more begun. At this rate it is estimated it will take eight or ten years from the time the offer was made to complete the system contemplated by Mr. Carnegie.

The original offer made by Mr. Carnegie to Washington was made January 12, 1899. An additional \$50,000 was offered on April 14, 1899, and on September 28, 1899, still another \$50,000 brought the total up to \$350,000.

On January 7 of the present year the Public Library was dedicated and opened to the public. Thus, in less than three years from the day the last offer was made by Mr. Carnegie the idea he had in mind when he made the gift was realized in stone and marble.

We are placing these facts on record, not in a spirit of boastfulness, but simply to serve as a gentle reminder to those who are ever ready to commend the energy and push of New York at the expense of what they are pleased to call the slow and sleepy ways of Washington.

There are a few things, at any rate, which we know how to do better here than they are done in New York.

The Proposed Union Station.

An Agreement Between the Two Houses Should Be Reached Promptly.

Less than ten working days remain of the Fifty-seventh Congress. If Washington is to have a union station an agreement among the conferees of the Senate and the House must be had promptly.

What is it that keeps them apart? Not a matter of principle, certainly. Simply the amount to be paid to the railroads, which the House thinks is too large and which the Senate is of the opinion is not large enough. The Senate decided that the bonus paid to the railroads for building the new station should be \$3,000,000. The House thought this excessive, and reduced the amount to \$2,000,000.

Under such circumstances, what would suggest itself to business men, to men of the world, to men, in fact, of common sense? A "splitting of the difference," wouldn't it? Now, why isn't this done?

The building of a union station is not a local matter altogether. It is one in which the entire country is interested. And this being the case, the course of Congress with reference to the pending bill will be watched with more than ordinary interest by the country at large.

Rather than have no union station at all, the District would probably be willing, staggering as it already is under a heavy load of taxation, to carry this further financial burden, which in equity and fairness, however, it should not be asked by Congress to assume.

Army Wire-Pulling.

Foolish Methods Employed to Overrule Department Decisions.

A suit has been entered in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia by two lieutenants of artillery to compel the Secretary of War to place their names on the Army Register more advantageously for them than is now the case. The court has issued a mandamus and cited the Secretary of War and the Adjutant General of the Army to appear and show cause why the wishes of the young officers should not be complied with.

The complaint is that many ex-volunteer officers have been put over them, who should not have had such advancement. In the meantime some of the ex-volunteers, who are backed by fathers in Congress, are claiming that they have not been put over the heads of enough regulars.

This is altogether a discreditable

state of affairs, and one which apparently will make it necessary to discipline a few young men before they settle down to their army careers in earnest. In the meantime the nominations are hung up in the Senate, and the young men seem to be ignorant of the fact that should Congress adjourn without confirming them they are legally and actually out of the army. In such an event it is more than probable that quite a number who now appear to have more time to devote to wire-pulling for rank than to their proper duties, will find themselves again amongst the bread winners in plain clothes.

No Secretary of War has ever devoted himself more assiduously than Mr. Root to the careful selection of candidates for army commissions. It would be surprising if some of the many hundreds appointed during the last few years did not fall by the wayside under the restraints of discipline, but the records up to date seem to justify fully the methods of selection applied.

England the Aggressor.

Great Britain, Not Germany, Proposed the Venezuelan Program.

The publication of the Venezuelan blue book by the British government comes at a good time. The Venezuelan crisis has passed its most acute stage, yet it has not become ancient history.

The disclosures of the blue book compel a revision of judgment as to the responsibility for the Anglo-German alliance and all that it entailed. American public opinion, in the press and elsewhere, has been in error in supposing that Germany was the aggressor in the truculent policy pursued in Venezuela, and that England followed in her wake, merely because an ill-advised alliance compelled her to do so.

There was ground for this assumption, not only in the particularly belligerent course of the German warships, but in the fact that in the ultimatums simultaneously presented to the Venezuelan government the claims of Germany were put first, and England asked for herself the same treatment accorded to Germany.

Notwithstanding all this, the blue book shows that the suggestion of joint action for the coercion of Venezuela came from Lord Lansdowne, and was made to the German ambassador in London so long ago as last July. Germany's reply was in favor of a joint naval demonstration.

But this was not enough for Lord Lansdowne. He was of the opinion that a blockade was the best form to give the proposed demonstration. Not only so, but the seizure of the Venezuelan gunboats was suggested by England. One more point of interest is brought out in the blue book; namely, that, although the negotiations between England and Germany for the coercion of Venezuela were opened last July, it was not until November that these powers thought it necessary to make any communication to the United States regarding the project.

These facts can hardly fail to be of interest to the just assembled parliament. Unless the opposition has wholly lost its spirit it will be likely to give the government an unpleasant quarter of an hour because of them. In any case, they will be kept in mind on this side of the Atlantic.

Frivolous Marriages.

Ease in Marrying Makes Business for the Divorce Courts.

It seems hardly necessary to ask, What has got into our young folks? The old St. Nicholas was always in them. But when on one and the same day two linked items like the following are to be found in the newspapers it seems as if the question must be asked, and asked sternly, What has got into the marrying authorities?

First item: Eugene McGinnis, eighteen years old, meets a girl whom he knows only as Florence, of Waterloo, N. Y.; takes her to Paterson, N. J., and marries her. Within an hour she leaves him with \$8, which formed the boy's cash capital. His father is suing for annulment of the marriage.

Second item: Annie Schwartz, nineteen, met Isidor Schwartz by appointment at the Bridge entrance. He drew a revolver and insisted on their getting married at once; took her to the City Hall, where they were married. He bade her good-by, and she has not seen him since. She wants to have the marriage annulled.

When legal marriages may be entered into as lightly as these it seems like a waste of time to be framing divorce laws or seeking to change those already in force. Every day we read of marriages which are frivolous or criminal—boy and girl marriages, marriages in which one or the other contracting party is already incubated with wife or husband, marriages of infancy and age, illegal mar-

riages, silly marriages, criminal marriages.

How glibly they are celebrated by careless clergyman or public officer! The marital relation, most sacred of contracts, is discredited in a thousand ways by acts like these. Reformers would better be turning their attention to some way of preventing marriage from being entered upon so lightly as it is at present. If this were properly attended to, the question of divorce would be a much less pressing one.

Free-Hand Comment.

Senator Morgan of Alabama has almost begun upon the beginning of the commencement of the preface of the introduction of the first of his thirty objections to the Panama canal treaty. If Senator Morgan lasts, he hopes to be able to say of the scheme: "Talked to death."

A temporary injunction has been issued in Chicago against the beef trust. In an action charging the packers with maintaining a combination in restraint of trade. It appears that the Sherman anti-trust law is still in reasonable working order despite the clamor for new enactments to take its place.

The Commissioner of Education says that the number of male teachers in the United States is steadily decreasing. The reason he assigns is that men think they can make more money in other pursuits. There are regions in this country where the average pay of teachers is less than a dollar a day. The Carnegies, Morgans, and Russell Sages did not travel that corduroy road to success.

The principal causes of mortality in this city, last week, according to the statistics furnished by the health board, were consumption and pneumonia—diseases peculiarly fatal in the case of negroes. The death rate among the whites was only 19.7, while among the negroes it was 41.7. On the whole, however, the health conditions in the District continued not only normal, but showed improvement over conditions existing at this time last year.

A new case of smallpox was discovered this week at the female workhouse of the Washington Asylum. Inasmuch as the victim has been an inmate of the institution since December 19, it is incumbent upon the Health Department to leave no stone unturned to trace the contagion to its source. It is hard enough for these poor wretches to be imprisoned, without adding to their punishment by exposure to so dangerous and loathsome a disease as smallpox.

The Talk of the Day.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" says of G. F. Monkshood, who annotated a translation into English of Anatole France's "Thais": "A gentleman who thinks 'enigma' is the plural of enigma should find other occupation than literary criticism."

There was a time when Madeira was preferred to champagne in Russia and the United States. Sir Richard Burton noted in one of his books about Africa that he had paid \$11 a bottle in New York, and had seen men "kill its aroma with ice instead of gently warming it like Lafitte." In the early '60s the best Madeira on the island cost \$550 a small pipe. The vintage was a simple affair. The grapes were trodden under foot in a wooden trough or in a press. The must was stored in open vats for four or five weeks. After fermentation, it was drawn off into fresh casks, clarified with eggs, gypsum, or bullock's blood, and a gallon or two of brandy kept it from turning into vinegar.

An acrobat engaged by a circus proprietor in England had a contract in which were the words, "No play, no pay." The business was bad, and the proprietor gave the acrobat a fortnight's notice and shut his circus. The acrobat asked for wages and was answered: "No play, no pay," to which he said he was ready to play and be paid. The justice decided that the words meant "No work, no pay," but the defendant's counsel could bring no evidence in support of this meaning, and Charles Morton, an authority, swore that the words did not bear the construction put on them by the proprietor.

An English museum official said the other day that J. P. Morgan is a giant in finance, but a baby in art, for "he pays out of all proportion to the value of his collections."

If it were not for the excessively rich, mediocre painters and musicians would starve. And what would the dealers in queer or artfully prepared rugs do? Many of the newly rich inwardly prefer a thick carpet of flowery or geometric pattern tacked down securely, to serve as an abiding place for all manner of uncleanness, but they have been told that carpets are vulgar, and they easily fall victims to dealers who are Oriental chiefly in shrewdness and the racial desire to sell Christians. Perhaps Mr. Mumford's book may in time make these buyers discriminative, but an intimate knowledge of rugs is of slow growth.

Every now and then you hear a wail over the "decadence in table board." "I am impressed," groans a New Yorker, "by the deadly monotony and dull range of the service, as well as the etablisement set out before me." And he is boarding "at a very select establishment." But how many housekeepers show fancy or imagination in ordering the daily meals? Is the "dull range" confined to boarding houses? Matilda exclaims in "The Rovers": "The beef of tomorrow will succeed to the mutton of today, as the mutton of yesterday," but in the household where there is only one married couple the leg of mutton must be eaten steadily from the original roast to various stewed preparations with or without toast. In the restaurant the bachelor easily falls into a routine. There are unfortunate men who eat roast beef six nights in the week and on Sunday turkey. What sort of a life is theirs?

THE FIELD OF POLITICS--GOSSIP, VIEWS, AND INCIDENTS.

Carter Harrison in Line for Fourth Term as Mayor of Chicago—Strong With the Masses in the Western Metropolis—New Mexico Honors Matthew Stanley Quay, of Pennsylvania.

Another Term as Mayor.

The Hon. Carter Harrison seems destined for a fourth term as mayor of Chicago, despite all the efforts which have been put forth to "down" him during the past six years. In fact, the indications now are that his chances are better for election than ever.

Since his honor was a candidate two years ago he has lost the friendship of "Bobbie" Burke, the Democratic "boss" of the Windy City, and to some extent is "out" with the organization, but this will not interfere in the least with his renomination. In fact, the only man talked of as likely to oppose him is the Hon. Clarence Darrow, attorney for the coal miners, and a member of the Illinois Legislature.

But Mr. Darrow is scarcely the man who would be picked up by Boss Burke for the purpose of defeating Mayor Harrison. Mr. Darrow was too closely associated with the late Governor Altgeld, and represents a sort of politics too radically different from the Chicago boss to be considered as his candidate for anything. Hence, while Mr. Darrow may receive a few votes in the convention, Mr. Harrison will win without serious opposition.

A Fruitless Race.

Among the Republicans there is a contest for the distinction of making the

fruitless race against the mayor. The aspirants are the Hon. Graeme Stewart, Republican national committeeman for Illinois, and the Hon. John M. Harlan, who ran as an independent candidate two years ago, when the four candidates in the field, Mayor Harrison came out with a majority over all. Then the Democratic vote was divided, a part of it going to ex-Governor Altgeld, who made a bitter personal fight against Mayor Harrison, and two years before that Mayor Harrison had another Democratic opponent in the person of the late Editor Hesing.

The indications are that Mr. Stewart will be the Republican nominee, and his selection would mean a big majority for Harrison regardless of whether or not Mr. Harlan runs as an independent candidate as he did two years ago. It is not likely that there will be a second Democrat in the race, although there may be two Republicans, or a Republican and an independent.

In any event, Harrison's chances are excellent for re-election, according to the opinions of careful observers in both parties. The mayor is popular with the masses and seems to grow in favor with them with each attack made upon him.

Without a Negro.

For the first time since the ballot was placed in the hands of the negro and

he was made eligible to hold office, there is now not a colored man in the Legislature of South Carolina.

Although much has been said against the disfranchisement of the black man in the Palmetto State, the white people have always until now given the negroes from one to four representatives in the Legislature, and this time the fault is largely with the negroes themselves. In the last Legislature there was but one colored man.

It has been the custom to allow the negroes in Georgetown and Beaufort, whose population is about nine-tenths black, to nominate two or three candidates for the Legislature, and allow them to be elected, the white people offering no opposition. This gave the negroes a representation in the Legislature, but at the last election they could not agree, and white men were returned from these towns. The negroes who have been members of the Legislature have not been partisans, however, and have accordingly been treated with the same official consideration shown the white members.

Paradoxical as it may seem, they have even voted for the Hon. Benjamin R. Tillman for United States Senator, for under the South Carolina primary system members of the Legislature are

morally bound to support the candidate chosen by the people for Senator. Now that the negroes are out entirely, it is doubtful if under the present franchise law any of their race can again be elected to the Legislature for many years.

The existing condition shows clearly the complete elimination of the colored brother from State politics in South Carolina.

Fresh Honors for Quay.

Whether Senator Quay is successful or not in passing the Statehood bill and placing three new stars in the American constellation by the admission to the Union of the Territories of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona, he will have received some honors for the fight he has made.

The Legislature of New Mexico, which Territory the Pennsylvania Senator is especially anxious to have made a State, has passed a bill organizing a new county and giving in the name of Quay county in recognition of the determined fight which the statesman from Beaver has made in behalf of Statehood. Several names were suggested for the new county, but when "Quay" was advanced it, at once met with favor and was selected by a large majority.

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD.

King Leopold of Belgium to Raze the Bellevue Hotel—Lord Kitchener Prefers a Post in India to Service in England—Reforms He Is to Accomplish—Selecting a Governor General for Macedonia—Brazil's Banished Royal Family.

Brussels Landmark to Disappear.

King Leopold has done wisely in buying the Hotel Bellevue, the best-known and leading hotel at Brussels. True, he has paid a steep price for it—in the neighborhood of a million dollars. But it is worth the money to him. For the hotel not only adjoins, but overlooks, the Royal Palace to such an extent as to deprive the latter of every vestige of privacy. This is not only inconvenient and undignified, but also dangerous, since it is impossible to guard the royal abode with any degree of efficiency on the sides that look out on and about the hotel. King Leopold intends to tear the Hotel Bellevue down and to lay out the site as a garden. The hotel has been something of a landmark, and it is doubtful whether there is any similar establishment in Europe which has in its day sheltered so many royal and imperial personages.

The Command-in-Chief of India.

In view of the astonishment expressed at Lord Kitchener's acceptance of the command-in-chief of India, and the exile from England for a term of years, which it entails, it may be as well to explain that from a military point of view the position of commander-in-chief of India is infinitely more desirable than that of commander-in-chief in England, now held by Lord Roberts.

To begin with, the salary of the commander-in-chief in India is \$60,000 a year, plus allowances to nearly the same amount, whereas the pay of Lord Roberts is merely \$25,000 a year, with allowances of about \$5,000 more. Then Lord Roberts has no seat in the cabinet, but is virtually subordinate to the secretary of war, who is a member of the administration, and who, like all civilians with military inclination, is exceedingly jealous of his prerogatives and imbued with an exaggerated notion of his military attainments.

Lord Kitchener, on the other hand, is the principal member of the council or cabinet of the governor general of India.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

Lady Jeune advocates, in an article in the "New Liberal Review," the suppression of reports of divorce cases, on the ground of public policy.

Miss Katharine White, daughter of the governor of West Virginia, has been selected to christen the new armored cruiser West Virginia, to be launched in April next.

Mrs. Smith, widow of Dr. S. F. Smith, the author of "America" was ninety years old last Sunday. For over forty years she has been a resident of Newton, Mass.

J. B. Davy, instructor in botany at the University of California, has been appointed chief agriculturist and botanist of the Transvaal government, with an initial salary of \$5,000 a year and expenses.

James G. Stewart, the official photographer of Abraham Lincoln, during whose campaign for the Presidency he made over half a million pictures, is still living in Bloomington, Ill. He owns one of the finest collections of Lincoln photographs in existence.

O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, is writing a book dealing with the development of the boundary lines of the States and Territories in this country. He will describe the changes that have occurred since Colonial days.

THE LENGTHENING DAYS.

When the days begin to lengthen
And the shadows shorter grow,
And the ruddy sun creeps higher
Where the gray clouds dully go,
Then my heart leaps up rejoicing,
Like a starved and 'prisoned thing,
For I'm longing, longing, longing,
For the coming of the spring.

O, I hate the winds that bluster
And I hate the chill that blights.
And the days of gray depression
And the drear ice-fettered nights;
When the light begins to lengthen
Then my heart begins to sing,
For I'm longing, longing, longing,
For the coming of the spring.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

dia, and is to all intents and purposes the dignitary next in importance to the Viceroy. He possesses absolute control of the vast military forces of India, of the white troops, as well as of the native; that is to say, of an army of considerably over 200,000 men, aside from the Indian constabulary of nearly 200,000 men more, who in time of war would be subject to his control, and of the forces of the semi-independent and vassal states of India.

Needs of the Indian Service.

It is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the British empire that the army in India should be maintained in the most perfect state of readiness, not only for the sake of maintaining in proper subjection the native population, numbering 300,000,000 dusky lieges of the King-Emperor, but likewise for repelling all danger of a Russian invasion of India, a peril ever present to the Indian government.

Now, up to this time the army in India has been most shamefully neglected. Its organization is both costly and defective, and its equipment is far behind the times. Lord Kitchener goes out with an absolutely free hand, at the request of the Viceroy, with the object of completely reorganizing every branch of the army in India and effecting the most radical reforms. He has a gigantic task before him, which he may be trusted to accomplish regardless of consequences, and with so much success that when after its completion he returns to England he will by the unanimous vote of both Unionist and Liberal be installed, not as commander-in-chief, but as secretary of state for war for the purpose of doing the same work at home that he has performed in India.

That he is badly needed in England no one can deny, for the military imbroglio at the war department and in the army is even worse than prior to the Boer war. But after all the task in India is one of greater urgency, because of the greater

peril. That in England can afford to wait.

The Macedonian Situation.

Should the Sultan consent to the administrative reforms in Macedonia which are demanded of him by all the signatory powers of the treaty of Berlin, with the exception of Germany, and a Christian governor general of the province be appointed as the nominee of the powers with the same degree of independence of the Sublime Porte as Prince George of Greece, the governor general of the Island of Crete, it is Prince Waldemar of Denmark who will be selected for the post. That has already been agreed upon by the powers.

The King of Italy was anxious to have his cousin, the Count of Turin, nominated. But Austria objected, and insisted that the agreement excluded from the office of prince of the imperial house of Hapsburg and of Romanoff should be extended to the reigning family of Italy.

It may be remembered that after the abdication of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria the latter's throne was offered to Prince Waldemar, who accepted, but a few days later withdrew his acceptance in deference to the wishes of his brother-in-law, the late Czar. He is a brother of the King of Greece, and this, coupled with the fact that he is a brother of the widowed Czarina, a favorite uncle of the Czar, a brother of the Queen of England, and persona grata at the court of Vienna, renders him a particularly suitable candidate for the governor generalship of Macedonia.

Brazilian Exiles.

The ex-Crown Princess of Brazil with her husband, Prince Gaston of Orleans, Count d'Eu, and her sons, have just instituted legal proceedings before the supreme court of Brazil, demanding the repeal of the decree of banishment pronounced against them in 1889. Some of the leading lawyers of Rio have charge of their interests, and inasmuch as the

present government of Brazil is composed of Moderates and of former Monarchists it is by no means impossible that the crown princess and her sons may win their suit, and be able to return to Brazil as citizens of the republic, much in the same way that the Countess of Paris, her son, the Duke de Montpensier, the Duke and Duchess of Chartres, the Duke and Duchess of Guise, the Duke and Duchess of Vendôme, and the other princes and princesses of the formerly sovereign house of Orleans (with the exception of the Duke of Orleans himself) are permitted to live in France.

The crown princess and her sons take the ground that the decree of banishment in force against them is unconstitutional from a republican point of view; that it was decreed as an exceptional measure by the provisional government immediately after the overthrow of the empire, and that it has been legalized neither by the laws of the latter, nor yet by the national legislature—consequently that she, her husband, and her sons, being citizens of Brazil, are entitled like all other citizens to enjoy all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the constitution and the laws of the republic.

The Brazilian lawyers, both in France and at Rio, insist that from a strictly legal point of view the imperial plainiffs have an absolutely clear case, and that the supreme court at Rio cannot possibly do otherwise than give a decree in their favor, while the composition of the present government of Brazil and of the national legislature render improbable in the extreme the enactment by parliament of any new legislation aimed against the crown princess and her sons.

I may add that the nephews of the crown princess, sons of her younger sisters, the late Princesses of Coburg, are not concerned at all in this suit. For having recognized the republic and made their peace therewith, no obstacles have been raised against their return to Brazil. MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

THE BEST THINGS FROM OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Still Unreconciled.

In declaring his unflinching and undying devotion to the Chicago and Kansas City plans, and his unwillingness to ally with anyone who did not support them, Mr. Bryan reveals himself as an irreconcilable. Such a character has no place in American politics. When an issue twice fought out in national elections is uncontested and admittedly dead, the American habit is to bury it, not to enshrine it in France, but our people turn from dead to living issues, and from beaten leaders to those whose counsels inspire hope.—New York World.

A Technical Infelicity.

There is one word in the official language spoken and printed at Washington that we would like to get out of it. We do not like to hear or to read of such a gallant sea-worn and war-worn sailorman as the late Rear Admiral Frank Whitely of Manila Bay—worthy of all the gratitude and honor his country could give him—being "condemned" by a service medical board. That is a word that should be kept for unworthy vessels, old guns, spoiled ship stores, and the like of them.—Hartford Courant.

Shirt Sleeve Diplomacy.

If Mr. Bowen has called a spade a spade in dealing with the allies it is because the language of diplomacy has proven inadequate to the situation. He has declined to be bullied, and in the present instance at least, consists of deception and blustering in equal parts.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Navy We Need.

The conviction that this Republic needs a navy at least as strong as that of any other nation except Great Britain appears to be spreading all over the country. The interests to be safeguarded are of incalculable value, and the resources of this prosperous people will not be unduly strained if a plan of naval development on a great scale is adopted. The American flag must be respected on every sea.—New York Tribune.

Not His First.

Poultry Bigelow says this country would do no harm in a war with Germany. It will be remembered, however, that Poultry has said a good many other things.—Chicago Record-Herald.

BITS OF MISCELLANY.

American Bluejackets.

According to Secretary Moody's report, 89 per cent of the bluejackets of our navy are citizens of the United States and 76 per cent are native born. A few years ago the majority of them were foreigners—principally Scandinavians. At the outbreak of the war with Spain many Continental newspapers prophesied that the aliens would desert, leaving the ships dangerously short-handed, but they proved loyal to a man.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Unstinted Applause.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon made a speech in the House the other day and told the members how he was going to put in an item to build a \$6,000,000 office building for them. Every statement he made was cheered and applauded by the Republicans. "Go it, boys!" shouted Representative Shattuck of Ohio. "The one making the most noise gets a chairmanship next year."—Chicago Chronicle.

The Mosquito Doomed Again.

Dr. Dempewolf, who succeeded Prof. Koch as the head of the German anti-malaria expedition to New Guinea, announces that he has discovered an aquatic insect which destroys the anopheles mosquito. He proposes to cultivate the creature artificially in the hope of exterminating the mosquito, thereby exterminating malaria.—Berlin Cablegram to New York Sun.

Dangerous Duty.

Between the drawing of the twenty-four members of the February grand jury in the criminal court of St. Louis, Mo., and its convening, five of its members died, and eleven others became so ill that they were unable to be present at its meeting.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Beneficent Discovery.

"Disappearing paper" is, we are informed, one of the latest literary inventions. By a French process still unexplained the paper is so treated with acid that it will perish within a fixed time. Upon disappearing stationery of fine quality, the tenderest expressions may be lavished without fear either of breach of promise suits or the indiscretion of literary executors. Stock watering will attain an unheard-of refinement when a certain proportion of the certificates are engraved upon this new material. Obviously, telegraph blanks on disappearing paper of the most rapid brand would be a great convenience to officers of the Standard Oil Company in their communications with Senators.—New York Evening Post.

SHAFTS OF WIT AND HUMOR.

Perfectly Reckless.

"Professor," said the slightly inebriated young placidist, "do you suppose you could get me some of that new metal they call radium?"

"It might be possible to procure a small quantity," answered the eminent chemist. "You know it is said to be worth nearly a million dollars a pound, and there is less than a pound of it known to be in existence. How much do you want?"

"All there is, please. I want to throw it at the birds."—Chicago Tribune.

The Climbers.

How few would taste the bitter cup,
How few would fret or sigh or frown
If no man tried while climbing up
To push some other climber down.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

Fathers and Sons.

"I never see John these days. Where is he now?"
"He's off somewhere a-learnin' of Latin an' Greek."
"And what's the old man doin'?"
"Sittin' in a chair for to pay John's bills."—Atlanta Constitution.